

## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STEAM GENERATING UNIT NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (NSPS)**

#### **ACTION**

- On May 30, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed revisions to emission control requirements for new, modified, and reconstructed utility, industrial, commercial, and institutional steam generating units. These regulations are known as New Source Performance Standards (NSPS).
- Utility steam generating units are located at electric power generating stations that burn fossil fuels. Industrial, institutional, and commercial steam generating units are located at industrial sites, institutions, and commercial sites (such as colleges or universities; office buildings; hospitals; hotels; towns, cities, counties, and State or Federal government buildings) which burn fossil fuels or wood.
- In February 2006, EPA took final action to update the NSPS for new, modified, and reconstructed utility, industrial, commercial, and institutional steam generating units. These amendments strengthened the nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and particulate matter (PM) emissions standards for utility steam generating units by 38%, 75%, and 50% respectively. On June 13, 2007, EPA completed an action to reconsider certain aspects of the updated NSPS.
- This action is in response to a second request for reconsideration. This request is from the Coke Oven Environmental Task Force. EPA is proposing to:
  1. Expand the SO<sub>2</sub> limit maintenance exemption for owners and operators of coke oven gas (COG)-fired steam generating units.
  2. Provide owners and operators of COG-fired steam generating units the same nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) monitoring options as owners and operators of steam generating units burning natural gas and oil.
  3. Specify the opacity monitoring requirements for owners and operators of steam generating units that are subject to an opacity limit but exempt from the continuous opacity monitoring systems (COMS) requirement.
  4. Specify that owners and operators of affected facilities that install PM continuous emissions monitoring systems would not be required to use COMS to determine compliance with the opacity limit.
- This proposed rule would not result in additional costs or additional reductions of emissions of criteria pollutants.
- EPA will accept public comment on this proposed reconsideration for 45 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*.

## BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act (CAA) directs the EPA to implement new source performance standards for categories of sources that cause, or contribute significantly to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. Utility, industrial, commercial, and institutional steam generating units are one of those source categories.
- The CAA further requires that NSPS reflect the application of the best system of emission reductions that (taking into consideration the cost of achieving such emission reductions as well as any non-air quality health and environmental impacts and energy requirements) the Administrator determines has been adequately demonstrated. This level of control is commonly referred to as best demonstrated technology.
- Under the CAA, EPA is required to periodically review and revise the standards of performance to reflect improvements in methods of reducing emissions.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the proposed rule from EPA's web site, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.
- Today's proposed rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
  - The Public Reading Room is located at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
  - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
  - Materials for this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0031.
- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0031 and submitted by one of the following methods:
  - Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
  - E-mail ([a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov))
  - Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or

- Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Christian Fellner at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-4003.
- For other combustion-related regulations, visit EPA's Combustion Related Rules page at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/combust/list.html>.